

Book News and Literary Notes.

One of the most unique and interesting books offered the public within the past year is "The Loom of Life," by Charles Frederic Goss, for whom the Bowen-Merrill company of Indianapolis are publishers. It is a story of an innocent young Grecian girl, whose father is absorbed in the study of ancient Greece to the exclusion of worldly knowledge, and who rears his child in total ignorance of the world's wickedness in a lovely Southern home. An accident throws a blase sensualist into the home of the old student and his daughter and an acquaintance ripens into illicit love, which terminates in the usual unfortunate way; innocence ruined and vice triumphant. A native Egyptian nurse figures in the story as the instigator of a terrible revenge on the brute who has seduced her young charge, and together the betrayed girl and the old adept in sorcery, snake charming and occultism follow the betrayer for years from city to city, across the seas and finally drive him to the Western wilds, where he becomes a squaw man, and falls a victim to the jealous frenzy of his Indian wife. The girl grows in wisdom and knowledge of the world and through the influence of Christianity taught by an honest man she discards her Oriental teachings and revengeful cravings and becomes the wife of her instructor. The story is well written, intensely interesting and out of the beaten line of fiction.

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Josephine Dodge Daskam, a talented young authoress, has written a charming book of short stories entitled "Whom the Gods Destroyed." Some of the stories resemble in handling, the works of Kipling, but are written in a delightfully interesting and convincing vein, which carries the reader back to the halcyon days of youth, when all women were fair, sweet and pure, and life tinted with roseate hues and all the world was a grand play room, where shadows never obscured the sunlight and fairies and genii peopled the wildwoods and exercised a canny power in the lives of the little ones. The stories are charmingly told and appeal to the best instincts in mankind. The publishers are Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Bret Harte is too well known throughout the West to need introduction through the press, and none of his former work more clearly illustrates the many-sided flashlights of originality which were possessed by this prince of story tellers. His last fledgling, "Condensed Novels," a series of burlesques on the works of modern writers, is a Pandora box of troubles for the writers whom this clever literary derider holds up to the searchlight of cynicism and stabs to the vitals through the powerful medium of a trenchant, fire-tipped pen. Kipling, Conan Doyle, Marie Corelli, Anthony Hope, Caine and other writers of inflated romance are impaled on the virus-tipped lance of the writer and the X-ray of his merry wit exposes the weak spots in the armor of each writer, with a skill and technique peculiarly his own. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. of Boston are the publishers.

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Frank L. Stanton, author of "Up From Georgia," published by D. Appleton & Co., tells a lively story replete with witticisms fresh tapped from the fertile fields of Southern romance. His style is not unlike that of Opie Read, but lacks the exquisite bits of descriptive coloring which have so endeared Read to thousands of American readers. It is, however, well told and handled with a strength which could only be gained by a complete knowledge of the place and people among whom the plot is laid.

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A. T. Quiller-Couch is just out with "The White Wolf, and Other Fireside Tales," published by Charles Scribner's Sons, which threatens to rival Baron Mauncheussen of Ananias clientele. The stories range from Norse love romances to composite photography, and cover geographically the earth's surface.

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Ruth McEnery Stuart, a Southern writer, has just given to the world's readers a splendid tale of the old South called "Napoleon Jackson," filled with the pure drollery of negro life and cleverly-told witticisms found nowhere save south of the Mason and Dixon line. It is fresh from the presses of the Century company of New York.

One of the daintiest, quaintest of late publications from P. U. Putnam's Sons' house is "Lavender and Old Lace," a humorous romance from the pen of Myrtle Read. The story is the work of a beauty-lover, who fairly revels among the air castles of life's best gifts and never descends to the stern solidities of life, but keeps its readers in dream lands of perpetual light, song and pleasure.

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Richard Harding Davis, has just given his juvenile worshippers a charming story of war life entitled "Capt. Macklin," which is in line with his past works on similar subjects, and will doubtless prove a bread-winner for the clever writer. The publishers are Charles Scribner's Sons.

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S. R. Crockett's Scotch romance, "The Banner of Blue," is dulled with dry dissertations upon church and state that blur the coloring of well-told love episodes which are the chief charm of the tale. McClure, Phillips & Co. of New York are publishing the book.

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A cousin of the late Nathaniel Hawthorne, who lives in Salem tells the Boston Journal that there never was any house of seven gables from which Hawthorne wrote his great story. He says that the author told him the house existed only in his imagination and had no firmer foundation than a flight of fancy.

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The Santa Fe Railway company is out with one of the handsomest souvenir pamphlets ever published in this country. It is an up-to-date folder, profusely illustrated, original in design and perfect in typography. It illustrates the ease and comfort with which tourists may travel the length and breadth of this country and Mexico via its well-equipped line, and is a most creditable production for both the railroad and its illustrator, Mr. H. E. Townsend.

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The White Pine Miner, a neat little paper, published at Ely, Nev., is the latest aspirant for literary fame in the Sagebrush State. May it find an apex on its ground, sink on pay ore, and tap ground so rich as to be compelled to guard its ore bin with a six-shooter to keep the ore from being absorbed by less fortunate prospectors between shipments.



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